

In the Spotlight!

FYI

The Alaska Teacher of the Year is called upon to speak at education conferences and participate in various statewide and national education working groups. The teacher is the Alaska nominee for national teacher of the year.

Mr. Robert Williams, Alaska Teacher of the Year 2009, wrote: “The Alaska State Teacher of the Year (STOY) recognition year includes meeting the current U.S. President, speaking engagements within Alaska, and several professional development opportunities with all the STOYs in Dallas, Princeton, New York City, Huntsville and Washington DC. While the Alaska STOY honor does not include a cash prize, the award does include a classroom Smart Board, a week-long International Space Camp experience in Huntsville, Alabama and a Walden University scholarship that has a value of several tens of thousands of dollars depending on the degree selected. By far the richest part of the STOY experience is the collaboration and shared-learning that occurs when fifty-five highly accomplished teachers from around the country spend time together. The friendship and camaraderie of all the other dynamic and enthusiastic STOYs is priceless.”

Nominate a deserving colleague for Alaska Teacher of the Year. Contact your district office for details.

ALASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has named **Lorrie Heagy**, an elementary music teacher and librarian in Juneau, the Alaska Teacher of the Year for 2011. Ms. Heagy teaches at Glacier Valley Elementary. The announcement was made November 14 at the annual conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards in Anchorage.

Trevor Townsend, who now works in the Mat-Su Borough School District, was named First Alternate Teacher of the Year 2011 for his achievements as a secondary English teacher in the Bristol Bay Borough School District.

Linda Jo Klapperich, a special education teacher in the Mat-Su Borough School District, was chosen as Second Alternate Teacher of the Year 2011.

ALASKA PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR:

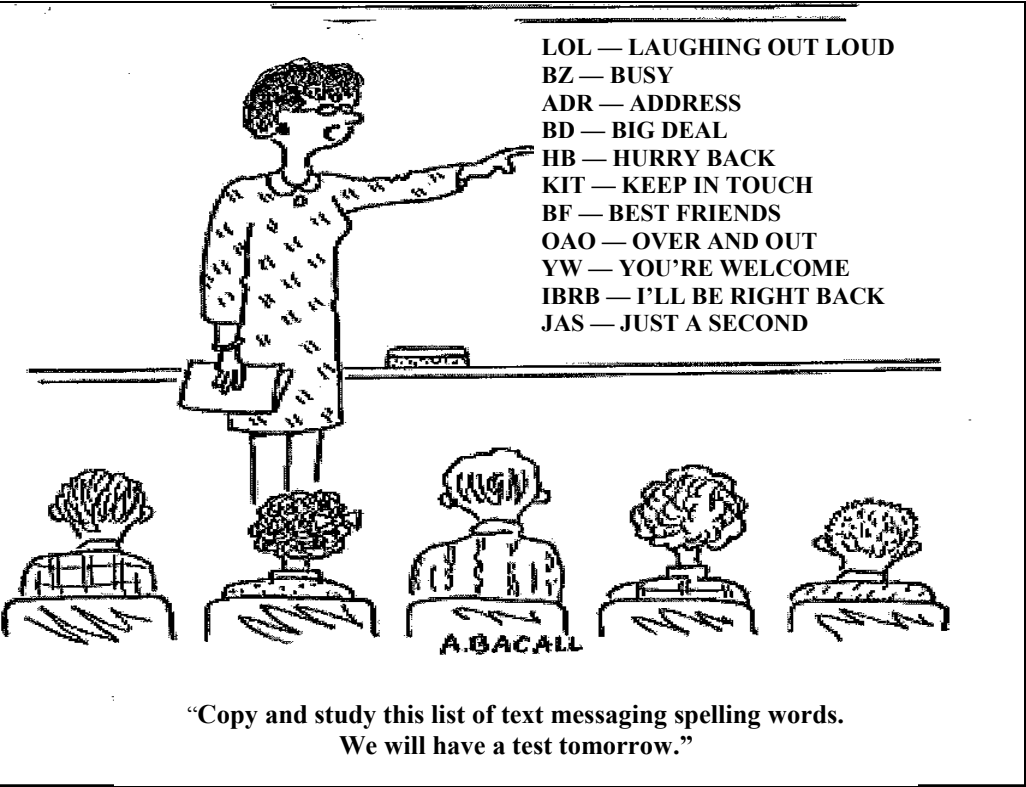
The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals has selected **Rod Morrison**, principal of George H. Gilson Jr. High School in the Valdez City School District, as the Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year.

Lou Pondolfino, principal of Robert Service High School in the Anchorage School District, was chosen as Alaska High School Principal of the Year.

Rick Toymil, principal of Alpenglow Elementary School, was named a National Distinguished Principal by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals.

ALASKA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR:

The Alaska Association of School Administrators announced that **Steve Bradshaw** has been selected by his peers as Alaska’s Superintendent of the Year. Bradshaw has been the superintendent of the Sitka School District over the past decade.



PTPC Winter Newsletter 2011

STAYING PROFESSIONAL IN TODAY’S MEDIA WORLD

- **Keep** your personal business private. Don’t list your place of work, job title, or work eMail address on sites meant to be strictly personal. Use the privacy settings to restrict access to family and friends. Even so, recognize that privacy really doesn’t exist on the web. Don’t post any comments, pictures, blogs, presentations, or words that you don’t want circulating more broadly.
- **Recognize** that as public employees, you always represent your school or district. If you don’t want to see it on the front page of the daily newspaper, don’t post it.
- **Avoid** participating in online surveys and other gimmicks that social media sites use to generate traffic.
- **Avoid** connecting personally with students. There’s never an appropriate or legitimate reason to develop online relationships with students. Employee content should project a professional image and should not have a negative impact on the employee’s ability to maintain the respect of students, parents, and peers.
- **Recognize** that the parents of your students are your partners in the educational process, not your “friends.” It is simply too easy to cross lines that should not be crossed.
- **Use** group sites or pages to connect with students and parents for educational purposes, such as homework help or assignments. Group pages should not give access to teachers’ personal and private information and accounts. Don’t post student photos on group pages without parental permission, and don’t post student photos on personal pages.
- **Avoid** anonymous or misleading postings and comments. Don’t misrepresent your identity and post a comment on someone else’s site or blog without identifying yourself as a public school employee. If you’re not willing to own your comments, don’t post them. Just because social media sites offer anonymity doesn’t mean you should use it.

(Adapted: eSchool News-December 2010)



PTPC Meetings

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission will meet in general session **January 25 and May 5-6, 2011**. Commission meetings are held in the Willawa conference room of the Alaska State Library. 344 West 3rd Avenue in Anchorage. Meetings are open to the public.

PTPC
STATE OF ALASKA

Winter 2011

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COMMISSION MEMBERS

- **Dr. Linda Black (Chair)**
Higher Ed Representative
- **Michael Husa (Vice Chair)**
Teacher Representative
- **Cindy L. Aillaud (Secretary)**
Teacher Representative
- **Jill Exe**
Teacher Representative
- **Jeff Hebard**
Teacher Representative
- **Eric Fry**
DEED Representative
- **Richard Lum**
Teacher Representative
- **Lou Pondolfino**
Principal Representative
- **Dr. Steve Atwater**
Superintendent Representative
- **Patricia Truman**
Executive Director
- **Atiya Barlow**
Administrative Assistant

Ethics is nothing else than
reverence for life.
~ Albert Schweitzer ~

COMMISSION ACTION

During its January 2010 meeting:

- the Commission accepted a stipulated agreement for voluntary surrender of the teacher certificate of Benjamin Aschenbrenner;
- the Commission accepted a stipulated agreement for voluntary surrender of the teacher certificate of Anisa K. Nelson;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Shannon C. Parker;
- the Commission conducted an administrative review of staff's decision to dismiss a case. Staff's decision to dismiss was upheld.

During its May 2010 meeting:

- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Maureen DeFrance;
- the Commission issued an order of formal reprimand to Elizabeth A. Dennis who holds a teacher certificate;
- the Commission issued an order of formal reprimand to Judy A. Madros who holds a teacher certificate;
- the Commission conducted an administrative review of staff's decision to dismiss a case. Staff's decision to dismiss was upheld.

During its September 2010 meeting:

- the Commission issued an order of revocation of the teacher certificate of Rosemary E. Owens;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Leah M. Hutchins;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of James M. Hutchins;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Roy E. Thomas;
- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the teacher certificate of Sharon M. Sherk;
- the Commission issued an order of formal reprimand to Michael Nakoneczny;
- the Commission conducted administrative reviews of staff's decisions to dismiss five (5) cases. Staff's decisions to dismiss were upheld in all five (5) cases.

New Commissioners

Governor Parnell appointed two new Commissioners to serve on the Professional Teaching Practices Commission. **Mr. Eric Fry** will sit as the representative of the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). Currently, Mr. Fry is the Information Officer for DEED. **Dr. Steve Atwater** will sit as representative for Alaska Superintendents. Dr. Atwater is currently the Superintendent of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. By regulation, Commissioners may serve two, three-year terms.

NOTICE!

Commission staff is available to provide presentations on the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession and the role of the Commission. The presentation includes discussions regarding professionalism and professional responsibilities.

Contact the Professional Teaching Practices Commission at **907-269-6579** to arrange presentations in your district.

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*****ATTENTION*****

THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION STATEMENT ON CONTRACTUAL ISSUES

(Revised March 4, 2010)

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) has statutory authority to investigate allegations of contract violations. The PTPC issued the following revision of its statement of procedures with regard to contract violations during an audio-conference meeting in March, 2010. All educators should be aware of possible sanctions against their certificate as described in the following statement:

PROCEDURES OF PTPC ON BREACH OF CONTRACT DUE TO UNILATERAL TERMINATION BY AN EMPLOYEE



An educator under contract with a school district who fails to give written notice of intent to terminate the contract, or who leaves the position following such notice without having the written assent of the employer, shall be deemed to have breached the contract and may be subject to disciplinary action including possible revocation of certificates by the PTPC.

If the unilateral termination by the educator occurs after June 30th, without persuasive mitigating circumstances, such a violation will result in a minimum one-year suspension of the educator's certificate.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION STATEMENT REGARDING ETHICAL CONDUCT OF EDUCATORS WITH REGARD TO TESTING.

(Revised May 6, 2008)

Statewide testing programs must be administered equitably and ethically, including security, preparation, and administration. It is the responsibility of certificated individuals who handle the tests, who administer tests, and/or who use the results of the test to follow test security regulations and procedures. Certificated individuals are required to comply with:

20 AAC 10.020 (CODE OF ETHICS OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSION)

(c) In fulfilling obligations to the public, an educator

(3) shall cooperate in the statewide student assessment system established under 4 AAC 06.710-4AAC 06.790 by safeguarding and maintaining the confidentiality of test materials and information;

4 AAC 06.765

(f) School and district personnel responsible for test administration shall annually execute an agreement, on a form provided by the department, affirming that they will follow the test procedures required under this section.

Breach of testing security and/or testing procedures may result in the loss of license .